of prior approvals conveyed to State Government in the last 10 years are available on the website of Ministry of Mines i.e. www.mines.nic.in. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 does not distinguish between mining leases for captive and non captive uses.

(c) and (d) As per Rule 9 of Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988, lessees of mining leases are required to submit a mining plan based on the assessment of the mineral resources and commence mining only after approval of the mining plan by the Indian Bureau of Mines.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to Part (c) and (d) above.

Supply of equipment to power generation companies

*39. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has issued directions that State- run companies, including Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. should be given preference in placement of bulk orders for power equipment supply by all the power generation companies in the country to protect the interest of Domestic Power Equipment Companies;

(b) if so, the details of mandatory binding orders issued, so far, to all the power generation companies;

(c) whether a monitoring cell would be created in the Ministry to constantly monitor placement orders with PSUs by power generating companies;

(d) if so, the details of the proposed monitoring cell; and

(e) if not, the reasons for not creating such a monitoring cell?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No directions/orders have been issued that State run companies including Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) should be given preference in placement of bulk orders for power equipment supply by all the power generation companies in the country.

Government have only approved that bulk ordering be done for induction of 660/800 MW supercritical units for some units of NTPC Ltd. and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) with some preference for BHEL in the competitive bid process. However, no bulk orders have been placed so far.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Status of tribal people in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

*40. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tribal people in Andaman and Nicobar Islands are extremely poor and are suffering for want of food and clothing;